

associated with HIV risk. Reported cases of hepatitis (all types) in Tennessee have generally shown a 40% decline from 2,100 in 1960 to 842 cases in 1989.⁴³

Hepatitis B is severely under-reported in Tennessee, yet it is important because it co-occurs with HIV infection and is a surrogate for it. However, due to incomplete reporting, the true incidence of hepatitis B is unknown.

4.1.3. Adolescent Pregnancy

Measures of adolescent fertility are indirect measures of HIV risk. They reflect the level of unprotected intercourse among heterosexual teenagers. These data are useful for observing trends, although they do not necessarily predict risk of disease transmission.

The 1995 pregnancy rate for the age-group 15-17 was 55.9 per 1,000 females. The rate for black females was more than two-and-one-half times that for white females (109.2 and 42.7, respectively).⁴⁴ The rate per 1,000 for 15-19 year-old females increased by 50% from 32.1 in 1974 to 68.8 in 1989. Black females had more than twice the rate for white females over all years. Their rates showed a slight decline of 11% from 126.0 per 1,000 in 1974 to 112.4 in 1989. The rate for white females declined from 68.8 in 1974 to 57.4 in 1989, a 16% decrease.⁴⁵

4.1.4. Regional Distribution of Surrogate Markers

Like AIDS case rates, regions with the highest percentage of STD, TB and hepatitis B cases were Davidson and Shelby Counties. Davidson County had nearly half of all hepatitis B cases in the State for the recent period from 1994-1995. Shelby County had a higher percentage of TB cases at 24% than Davidson, which was in second place with 17% of cases. Shelby County also had by far the highest STD volume at 38% of total state cases, with Davidson at 16% and Southwest Tennessee at 10% of cases. Teen pregnancy rates were also highest in Shelby County, and represented 25% of all cases. Their proportion of cases was more than twice that of any other region in Tennessee (Table 4.1.1). Counties with the highest AIDS case rates, on the one hand, and rates of surrogate markers, on the other hand, are ranked in Table 4.1.2. Shelby and Davidson Counties figured in the top ten rankings of three out of five surrogate measures.

⁴³ **Tennessee Statistical Abstract**. November, 1994.

⁴⁴ Office of Health Statistics and Information, Bureau of Health Services, Tennessee Department of Health. "Tennessee's Health Series," **Picture of the Present**. 1995.

⁴⁵ Center for Business and Economic Research, College of Business Administration, University of Tennessee. **Tennessee Statistical Abstract**. 1994-95.